

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A spoke for wheels including a shaft having opposed longitudinal ends, on at least one of the ends a terminal element is provided for carrying a device for the attachment of the spoke to a respective wheel component, the device is fitted by fixing means, the fixing means comprise a ~~stud-bolt-type~~ threaded connection between the shaft and the terminal element, the shaft having respective internally threaded portions at each end of the shaft and the terminal element having an externally threaded portion for coupling to one of the internally threaded portions of the shaft.
2. (Currently Amended) The spoke according to Claim 1, ~~wherein in which the stud-bolt-type threaded connection comprises an axial hole in the end of the shaft and a~~ and the internally threaded portion of the shaft is formed responsive to the external thread on the terminal element tapping into the axial hole, the coupling between the hole and the thread being of the threaded or self-tapping type.
3. (Previously Presented) The spoke according to Claim 1 in which the shaft is made of a material having a mechanical strength less than that of the material of which the terminal element is made.
4. (Previously Presented) The spoke according to Claim 2 in which the shaft is made of light alloy.
5. (Previously Presented) The spoke according to Claim 2 in which the terminal element is made of steel.
6. (Withdrawn) The spoke according to Claim 2 in which the ~~self-tapping~~ external thread of the terminal element is formed with a conical profile.
7. (Withdrawn) The spoke according to Claim 1 in which a driving key is provided in an intermediate portion of the terminal element, for the driving of the terminal element into the shaft.
8. (Withdrawn) The spoke according to Claim 1 in which the terminal element is driven into the shaft with interference.

9. (Currently Amended) The spoke according to Claim 1 in which the terminal element is provided, at the a distal end remote from of the shaft, with means for connection to a nipple.

10. (Currently Amended) The spoke according to Claim 1 in which the terminal element is provided, at the a distal end remote from of the shaft, with means for connection to a wheel hub.

11. (Previously Presented) The spoke according to Claim 9 in which the connection means comprise a threaded portion of the terminal element.

12. (Previously Presented) The spoke according to Claim 10 in which the means for connection to a hub comprise an attachment element.

13. (Previously Presented) The spoke according to Claim 2 in which the hole in the shaft is blind and has a greater length than the threaded portion of the terminal element which is engaged therein, so as to define a chamber in the hole.

14. (Previously Presented) The spoke according to Claim 13 in which the axial length of the chamber is greater than or equal to one third of the overall axial length of the blind hole.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for the manufacture of a wheel spoke comprising the steps of:

preparing a shaft, and

separately preparing at least one terminal element to be arranged as an extension of the shaft, the shaft being made of a material having a mechanical strength less than that of the material with which the terminal element is made, and

forming an external thread at an end portion of the at least one terminal element,

forming respective internally threaded portions at each end portion of the shaft,

fitting the terminal element on the shaft by a stud-bolt type engaging the external threaded portion of the at least one terminal element with one of the end portions of the shaftconnection, thereby ~~firmly~~ fixing the shaft and the terminal together axially.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 15 in which the connection is forced with interference.
17. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 15 in which the stud-bolt-type connection is performed with a self-tapping coupling.
18. (Withdrawn) A wheel spoke produced by press-forging of metal alloy and having a substantially Y-shaped configuration with two shanks at the same end, the shanks having respective threaded portions for the engagement of respective nipples.
19. (Withdrawn) The spoke according to Claim 18 including a central aperture of a shape corresponding to the external shape of the spoke itself.
20. (New) The spoke according to Claim 1, wherein the shaft has a constant external diameter from a first end of the shaft to a second end of the shaft.